

By the Committee on Regulated Industries; and Senator Stargel

580-02209-14

2014692c1

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to engineers; amending s. 471.007,  
3       F.S.; revising requirements for membership on the  
4       Board of Professional Engineers; authorizing the  
5       professional and technical engineering societies to  
6       provide a list of qualified nominees for consideration  
7       as board member appointments; providing for staggered  
8       terms; amending s. 471.013, F.S.; revising  
9       requirements for an engineer license applicant who  
10      fails the fundamentals examination; authorizing such  
11      applicant who is delayed in taking the examination by  
12      military service to have additional attempts to take  
13      the examination; amending s. 471.015, F.S.; revising  
14      requirements for obtaining a licensure by endorsement;  
15      amending s. 471.017, F.S.; revising requirements for  
16      professional development hours and license renewal for  
17      engineers; providing effective dates.

18  
19 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

20  
21       Section 1. Section 471.007, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
22       read:

23       471.007 Board of Professional Engineers.—

24       (1) There is created in the department the Board of  
25       Professional Engineers. The board shall consist of 11 members,  
26       nine of whom shall be licensed engineers and two of whom shall  
27       be laypersons who are not and have never been engineers or  
28       members of any closely related profession or occupation. The  
29       members of the board who are licensed engineers must be

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30 appointed based on their qualifications to provide expertise and  
31 experience to the board at all times in civil engineering,  
32 structural engineering, electrical or electronic engineering,  
33 mechanical engineering, or engineering education ~~Of the members~~  
34 ~~who are licensed engineers, three shall be civil engineers, one~~  
35 ~~shall be a structural engineer, one shall be either an~~  
36 ~~electrical or electronic engineer, one shall be a mechanical~~  
37 ~~engineer, one shall be an industrial engineer, one shall be an~~  
38 ~~engineering educator, and one shall be from any discipline of~~  
39 ~~engineering other than civil engineering.~~

40 (2) Following the expiration of the initial staggered terms  
41 under subsection (3), members of the board ~~Members~~ shall be  
42 appointed by the Governor for terms of 4 years each.  
43 Professional and technical engineering societies may submit a  
44 list of qualified nominees to be considered by the Governor for  
45 appointment.

46 (3) When the terms of members serving as of July 1, 2014,  
47 expire, the terms of their immediate successors shall be  
48 staggered so that three members are appointed for 2 years, four  
49 members are appointed for 3 years, and four members are  
50 appointed for 4 years, as determined by the Governor. Each  
51 member holds office until the expiration of his or her appointed  
52 term or until a successor has been appointed.

53 Section 2. Paragraph (e) of subsection (1) of section  
54 471.013, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

55 471.013 Examinations; prerequisites.—

56 (1)

57 (e) Every applicant who is qualified to take the  
58 fundamentals examination or the principles and practice

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59 examination shall be allowed to take either examination three  
60 times, notwithstanding the number of times either examination  
61 has been previously failed. If an applicant fails either  
62 examination three times, the board shall require the applicant  
63 to complete additional college-level education courses or a  
64 board-approved relevant examination review course as a condition  
65 of future eligibility to take that examination. If the applicant  
66 is delayed in taking the examination due to reserve or active  
67 duty service in the United States Armed Forces or National  
68 Guard, the applicant is allowed an additional two attempts to  
69 take the examination before the board may require additional  
70 college-level education or review courses.

71 Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of section  
72 471.015, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

73 471.015 Licensure.—

74 (5) (a) The board shall deem that an applicant who seeks  
75 licensure by endorsement has passed an examination substantially  
76 equivalent to the fundamentals examination when such applicant  
77 has÷

78 ~~1. Has held a valid professional engineer's license in~~  
79 ~~another state for 15 years and has had 20 years of continuous~~  
80 ~~professional-level engineering experience~~÷

81 ~~2. Has received a doctorate degree in engineering from an~~  
82 ~~institution that has an undergraduate engineering degree program~~  
83 ~~which is accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering~~  
84 ~~Technology; or~~

85 ~~3. Has received a doctorate degree in engineering and has~~  
86 ~~taught engineering full time for at least 3 years, at the~~  
87 ~~baccalaureate level or higher, after receiving that degree.~~

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88 Section 4. Effective March 1, 2015, subsection (3) of  
89 section 471.017, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

90 471.017 Renewal of license.—

91 (3) (a) The board shall require a demonstration of  
92 continuing professional competency of engineers as a condition  
93 of license renewal or relicensure. Every licensee must complete  
94 9 continuing education ~~4 professional development~~ hours, for  
95 each year of the license renewal period, totaling 18 continuing  
96 education hours for the license renewal period. For each renewal  
97 period for such continuing education: ~~7~~ 4

98 1. One hour must ~~hours shall~~ relate to this chapter and the  
99 rules adopted under this chapter;

100 2. One hour must relate to professional ethics; ~~and the~~  
101 ~~remaining 4~~

102 3. Four hours must ~~shall~~ relate to the licensee's area of  
103 practice; and

104 4. The remaining hours may relate to any topic pertinent to  
105 the practice of engineering.

106  
107 Continuing education hours may be earned by presenting or  
108 attending seminars, in-house or nonclassroom courses, workshops,  
109 or professional or technical presentations made at meetings,  
110 webinars, conventions, or conferences, including those presented  
111 by vendors with specific knowledge related to the licensee's  
112 area of practice. Up to 4 hours may be earned by serving as an  
113 officer or actively participating on a committee of a board-  
114 recognized professional or technical engineering society. The 4  
115 hours of continuing education hours relating to this chapter,  
116 the rules adopted pursuant to this chapter, and ethics may be

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117 earned by serving as a member of the Legislature or as an  
118 elected state or local official. The hours required pursuant to  
119 s. 471.0195 may apply to any requirements of this section except  
120 for those required under subparagraph 1.

121 (b) The board shall adopt rules that are substantially  
122 consistent with the most recent published version of the  
123 Continuing Professional Competency Guidelines of the National  
124 Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying ~~for~~  
125 ~~multijurisdictional licensees for the purpose of avoiding~~  
126 ~~proprietary continuing professional competency requirements~~ and  
127 shall allow nonclassroom hours to be credited. The board may, by  
128 rule, exempt from continuing professional competency  
129 requirements retired professional engineers who no longer sign  
130 and seal engineering documents and licensees in unique  
131 circumstances that severely limit opportunities to obtain the  
132 required continuing education ~~professional development~~ hours.

133 Section 5. Except as otherwise provided in this act, this  
134 act shall take effect July 1, 2014.